

Ramadan Kareem.

On behalf of the American people, I wish to send the warmest greetings to all Palestinians who celebrate this holy month. My colleagues at the Consulate and I look forward to sharing again in the traditions of Ramadan with Palestinian friends.

At this important time of year, I want to emphasize the special and important relationship between the American and Palestinian people. The United States is committed to helping you realize an independent, democratic state of Palestine, living in peace and security. This is the vision expressed by President Bush, and the fervent hope of Secretary Rice and her team, who are working hard towards this objective.

In this month of Ramadan, we all look to the enduring Islamic values of tolerance and understanding as a powerful guide towards a peaceful future.

The American people greatly respect the traditions and values of reflection, humility and charity that are integral to Ramadan. Each year, I am pleased to participate in activities sponsored by the U.S. Consulate General for Palestinian audiences in celebration of Ramadan. These include iftars, cultural events, and charitable activities. The Islamic values of tolerance and understanding, and traditions of compassion and kindness are shared by Americans of all faiths, including millions of Muslim Americans.

In the Ramadan spirit of reaching out to friends and neighbors, I wish to invite you now to explore our website and learn more about the Ramadan activities in which the Consulate will be engaged.

Again, I wish you a Ramadan Kareem.